

## APPENDIX A

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## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

**Stakeholder Issues Summary**

**CEQA Notice of Preparation**

**Public Newsletter #1**

**Questionnaire**

**Land Tours Announcement**

**Public Newsletter #2**



### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Jack & Jeanne Adams Lions & S.I.R.S., Brentwood	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve safety and develop area for school children to visit.</li> </ul>
Seth Adams Save Mount Diablo Organization	Email / letter	<p>Resource Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because important plant and wildlife species (including 4 special status plant communities and 12 special status wildlife species) as well as man-made stock ponds and seasonal ponds that have been observed within the historic boundaries of Cowell Ranch, it is concluded that the ponds and water bodies on the State park are of extreme importance and should be maintained.</li> <li>We support extensive land additions to Cowell Ranch State Park to protect sensitive species and to further protect wildlife corridors stretching from Los Vaqueros to Black Diamond Mines.</li> <li>Attention should be given to avoiding impacts on these corridors as well as to resolving existing conflicts, including restoration and enhancement, and additional land acquisition.</li> <li>We support reintroduction of Tule elk, pronghorn and the Mt. Diablo buckwheat.</li> <li>We believe multi-use passive recreation should be supported through the creation of trails and staging areas, including the extension of the 30-mile Diablo Trail to create the 60-mile Diablo Grand Loop.</li> <li>Although we have no position on the renaming of Cowell Ranch, we are intrigued by the historic name of Rancho Los Meganos.</li> <li>Habitat enhancement for endangered species should be undertaken.</li> <li>The Park is a potential reintroduction site for the Mt. Diablo buckwheat which was thought to be extinct.</li> </ul> <p>Interpretive Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul> <p>Operations Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul> <p>Land-use Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Diane Alexander	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is in terrible condition; major restoration work is needed.</li> </ul>
Barbara Anderson	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is in a sorry condition. It needs a visitors' center, trails and restoration of the house.</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Anna Barnes	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house.</li> </ul>
Richard H. Bartke Golden Gate National Parks & Point Reyes Seashore	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original adobe was not identified as described.</li> <li>The house and the yard should be restored to it 1850's condition (including the adobe as much as possible).</li> </ul>
Mrs. Dolores N. Belew	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Mary Black	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house.</li> <li>Plant around the house to reflect its original state – vineyards, gardens, etc.</li> <li>Develop "living history" programs centered at the park.</li> </ul>
Lisa Borba	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage public and private fundraising, and community support that would give a sense of "say" in the development of the site.</li> </ul>
Deborah Burstyn	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please name the new park for John Marsh. It was his land. It is his house.</li> </ul>
Wayne & Zileen Butler	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house and grounds.</li> <li>Allow weddings and group meetings.</li> </ul>
Helen Kennedy Cahill	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stabilize and preserve the house and the open space.</li> <li>Furnish it in the period.</li> <li>The ranch can be used for hiking, bicycling and riding.</li> <li>Cowell Ranch can be a valuable educational tool for students of California history.</li> </ul>
Karen K. Cleek, ECCHS John Marsh Trust SF Presidio – RAB	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop interpretive materials, trails, better amenities, separate but available decent parking.</li> <li>Shore up and then revive the house at least for exterior viewing.</li> </ul>
Douglas Crary Sierra Club, Audubon Society	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinforce and strengthen the house.</li> <li>Install gardens around the house.</li> </ul>
Alysonne Delaveaga	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Tim Donahue Delta Group – Sierra Club	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore home, furnishings and grounds for docent led tours.</li> <li>Include true and sad story of local Native Americans in area.</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Joan Douglas	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is not open to the public.</li> <li>Provide a questionnaire that is relevant to the experience at the site.</li> </ul>
Jon Elam	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the access road.</li> <li>Restore the site with native plants.</li> </ul>
Jess Erickson	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house and maintain the property.</li> <li>The plan should be compatible with those of the City of Brentwood and the John Marsh Historical Society.</li> </ul>
Damian L. Foley	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house.</li> </ul>
Billie Fortner	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is in very poor condition. It must be stabilized and brought back to its original beauty.</li> <li>Make the grounds a park for all to enjoy.</li> </ul>
Joanne M. Frudden	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house and grounds to their original condition.</li> </ul>
Richard & Anabelle Gaedtke	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glad to see the restoration work is going forward.</li> </ul>
Raymond Gillie	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Tanja & Allen Griffin	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the necessary funds to save the house.</li> </ul>
Garry Grover John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house.</li> </ul>
Paul Grunland Contra Costa County Historical Society	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most important historical building in CCC, perhaps the entire East Bay.</li> </ul>
Robert D. Haines, Jr. Argonaut Book Shop	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is really broken down. A complete restoration would be good.</li> </ul>
Jacqueline M. Hanel, DrPH John Muir Health	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to the house.</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Michael S. Helmantoler Concord, CA	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As honor to the Volvon tribe of the Bay Miwok, the indigenous people of the East Bay land recently known as Cowell Ranch, I suggest the name Shadow Oak.</li> </ul>
William J. & Mary Iracki	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Comments.</li> </ul>
Carol A. Jensen John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is in terrible disrepair.</li> <li>Restore the stone house to its 1856 condition.</li> <li>The State of California is derelict in its duty of caring for the house.</li> </ul>
Robert Jemigan Concord, CA	Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build a transparent dome over the original John Marsh House allowing visitors to walk around the house and to view it from all angles but keep the house protected while it is being reconstructed.</li> </ul>
Jeannine Kikkert	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Wayne Korsinen John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a member of the Trust I support the General Plan and its vision for restoration and maintenance of the house.</li> </ul>
Paul L. Krey	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
John Krizek Oregon-California Trails Assoc	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the land around the house to reflect its original setting.</li> </ul>
Verna Cakebread Krusg Save Mt. Diablo	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch to educate children about the environment, nature and history.</li> <li>The surrounding development spoils the historical setting.</li> <li>Plant trees and shrubs to block shaver hills containing development.</li> <li>The house is in dire straits.</li> </ul>
Peggy Light	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the house as it was which would provide a good lesson in history.</li> </ul>
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Louis, Jr.	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Barry Margesson	Comment Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create research field stations on site for study of historical and natural resources (see Delta Science Center)</li> <li>Leave room for interpretation</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore creek for restoration of native salmon, steelhead, and beaver populations</li> <li>• Cultural events, sweat lodges, rode grounds, carriage house</li> <li>• Opportunity for Cowell Ranch to be one of major creek restoration sites.</li> <li>• Staging for larger groups off site to allow for historic re-enactment</li> </ul>
Randi McCall	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why not name the park the Miwok-Marsh State Park or the Miwok-Marsh Pioneer State Park?</li> </ul>
Dean L. McLeod First Villages Consulting	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house is one of the most important un-restored houses in the states from the 1850's.</li> <li>• Restoration of the house is critical.</li> <li>• The site represents a valuable opportunity for interpretive education about the Native Americans residing there.</li> </ul>
Joseph M. and Lauren McFarlan	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the house and the site.</li> <li>• Access from the highway should be provided for visitors.</li> <li>• Designate a walking path from the highway to the house so a key would not be needed to pass through locked gates and encounter livestock.</li> <li>• An informational sign at the highway could direct walkers to use the driveway that exists.</li> <li>• The house and grounds should have a dedicated water supply.</li> <li>• Implement a weed management plan to control the existing weed situation.</li> <li>• Restore native vegetation around the house. It could be prescriptively grazed to reduce fire hazard.</li> <li>• The house and immediate vicinity (a few acres around the house) should be removed from livestock use.</li> <li>• Place the fence around the house further back to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the grounds and the house.</li> </ul>
Gene Metz John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete restoration of the house to pre-1868 state.</li> <li>• Replicate the adobe.</li> <li>• Replant historic orchards, vineyards, and gardens.</li> <li>• Develop means to commemorate Native Americans.</li> <li>• Please use pre-1868 photos and images of the house in all mailings and publications.</li> <li>• Work with all to create an educational, enjoyable, fun experience for the site.</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Gene Metz John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc.	Comment Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trust recommends the name of The John Marsh Pioneer Historic State Park which best represents the most dynamic period of California History.</li> </ul>
Susan Mills Brentwood, CA	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think the park should be named Marsh Pioneer State Park. It incorporates both Marsh and Pioneer which will help preserve the Marsh name and include any other early pioneers to the area.</li> </ul>
James Ralph Moore	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the cost of restoration of the house and grounds is too great, consider building a new structure to house a wide variety of community functions – e.g. social, musical, and dramatic, etc.</li> <li>Use funds in the “Grand Piano Fund” for all kinds of music.</li> <li>Put an upright on a flatbed and form a group to play and sing the masterpieces of Berlioz.</li> </ul>
Sandra Myers, Chair City of Brentwood Parks Commission	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Sandra Myers, Chair City of Brentwood Parks Commission	Comment Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please pursue leasing some of the land to the East Bay Regional Parks east of the Round Valley Staging area.</li> </ul>
Shirley Nootbaar	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep any restoration simple and quiet.</li> <li>Keep the park like a preserve with limited recreational facilities.</li> <li>Carefully plan the trails.</li> </ul>
Lech Naumovich	Comment Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to preserve and conserve native flora; consider soils in planning; can provide input on floristic surveys and stewardship plan.</li> </ul>
Douglas Plummer	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give the park a name that incorporates John Marsh's name in it.</li> </ul>
Larry G. Preston	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will existing agricultural uses be included in the Plan Work?</li> </ul>
Robert Rabum East Bay Bicycle Coalition	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Kathleen Rich	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name the Park John Marsh State Park.</li> </ul>
Anna Rikkelman	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn it into a “nice” State Park.</li> </ul>



### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
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Nels Roselund The Roselund Engineering Company	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue structural stabilization to protect it against earthquake shaking.</li> </ul>
Barbara Russell-Cainbro East County Historic Society	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is deteriorated. It needs money for restoration and needs to be protected from bad weather.</li> </ul>
Beulah Schiller	Email / Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the name "Pioneer" is recommended in naming a new state park in Brentwood, I want to remind you of a significant citizen who lived in Brentwood. His name was Major-General Robert Tryon Frederick</li> </ul>
Sheldon & Nancy Sicotte	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is deteriorated.</li> <li>It should be restored and the yard landscaped.</li> <li>The State should take quick action to preserve and restore the house.</li> </ul>
Kermit Sveen	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate the house; coordinate the effort with neighbors, summerset, Trilogy and LMC.</li> </ul>
Jim Townsend East Bay Regional Park District	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Jim Townsend East Bay Regional Park District	Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide for the connection of the 30 mile park corridor from Brentwood to Walnut Creek.</li> <li>Provide an alignment for the Black Diamond Mines to Round Valley Regional Trail (and on to Mt. Diablo State Park); loop trails within the 4,000 acre park.</li> <li>Provide significant active public recreation, including camping and picnic areas, in a manner that is consistent and complimentary to resource protection.</li> <li>Develop and implement a vegetation management strategy that protects existing grassland foraging habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species.</li> </ul>
Chris Valenta	Telephone Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include RV camping with hook-ups, swimming area and shade.</li> <li>Change the name of the state park.</li> </ul>
Barbara & Bob Van Buren	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The house is in disrepair and should be restored.</li> <li>Maintain the open space and surrounds.</li> </ul>

### Stakeholder Issues Summary – Cowell Ranch / John Marsh General Plan

PERSON & AFFILIATION	COMMENT TYPE	COMMENTS, ISSUES, & SUGGESTIONS
Karen Wahl City of Brentwood	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Richard Waldo	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The House has historical significance and should be kept up.</li> </ul>
Edgar Weber	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Robert and Karen Wetherell	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments.</li> </ul>
Marie Marsh Wilson	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the restoration of the house.</li> <li>Maintain the house.</li> <li>Use it as a visitor center, history place, the core of the entire park. A place that can be used as a jumping off place to other areas.</li> </ul>
William & Shirley Winthrop	Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spend appropriate amount of money to restore and maintain the house.</li> </ul>

*NOTE: Updated August 2007. Additional public comments are highlighted in meeting summaries.*

## CEQA NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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**To:** Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and Office of Planning & Research.

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch General Plan.

**Lead Agency:** California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Vista District – Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, CA 94517  
Contact: Craig Mattson, Sector Superintendent  
Phone: (925) 673-2895 Fax: (925) 673-0160  
Email: cmatt@parks.ca.gov

**Consultant:** EDAW, Inc.  
150 Chestnut Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Contact: Donna Plunkett  
Phone: (415)433-1484 Fax: (415)788-4875  
Email: plunkettd@edaw.com

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks), as the Lead Agency is partnering with the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department and will prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the project described below. We would like to know the views of interested persons, organizations, and agencies as to the scope and content of the information to be included and analyzed in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the elements of the environmental information that are relevant to their statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

*Appendix A  
Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan and Draft Program EIR  
Notice of Preparation  
April 11, 2006*

The project description, location, and potential environmental effects of the proposed project (to the extent known) are contained in this Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than June 17, 2006. Please send your written response or comments to Craig Mattson, CEQA Coordinator, California Department of Parks and Recreation, at the address shown above. Responses should include the name of a contact person at your agency.

**Project Title:** John Marsh/Cowell Ranch General Plan and EIR.

**Project Location:** Southwest of the City of Brentwood on the east and west side of Marsh Creek Road in eastern Contra Costa County. (See attached project location map)

**Project/Site Description:**

California State Parks' Diablo Vista District and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department, is in the process of developing a General Plan for John Marsh/Cowell Ranch in accordance with Public Resources Code §5002.2 referencing General Plan guidelines and §21000 et seq. concerning the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the General Plan is to guide future development activities and management objectives at the Park.

John Marsh/Cowell Ranch is a recent addition to the State Park system, and is currently not open to the public and has not had a General Plan prepared to date. John Marsh/Cowell Ranch encompasses nearly 4000 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and unique cultural features, including the historic John Marsh Home. Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as the Trust for Public Land and other public entities, John Marsh/Cowell Ranch is one of California's newest state parks. The Park provides an additional link in over 81,000 acres of contiguous open space within the region. Vital not only for the potential visitor recreation opportunities but for its open space values and ecological diversity including wildlife habitat, native plant communities and a rich array of pre-historic and landscape-based cultural resources as well as the history of John Marsh and his influence on the region. Completion of the General Plan will provide a long term vision for the

*Appendix A  
Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan and Draft Program EIR  
Notice of Preparation  
April 11, 2006*

Park as well as a strategy for the rehabilitation of the John Marsh Home and opportunities for recreation and long term resource management. Also as part of the General Plan, California State Parks and Recreation Commission will need to select a name for the park as well as classify it within the state park system.

Preparation of the General Plan is in its early stages, including a current evaluation of existing conditions as well as resource and management opportunities and constraints at the Park that will aid in the development of the General Plan. Known resources at the Park include:

- Historic architecture (John Marsh House)
- Potential habitat for state threatened and federally endangered species
- Ranch and agricultural historic landscape
- Native American resources
- Marsh Creek and riparian habitat
- Vernal pools
- Briones Valley

Issues that will be considered as part of the General Plan process include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Visitor use/recreation and facilities alternatives
- Comprehensive cultural resource management
- Long term natural resource protection
- Interpretative themes and educational opportunities
- Park operations and maintenance facilities
- Relationship to the adjacent Marsh Creek Reservoir
- State parks unit naming and classification

**Potential Environmental Effects:**

Although ultimate land use and resource management provisions of the General Plan have not yet been determined, generally expected types of environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the General Plan can be identified. Based on the resource characteristics of the Park and generally anticipated Park uses, potential environmental effects that will likely be addressed in the EIR, include:

- Evaluation of impacts to native plant communities and plant / wildlife habitats;
- Evaluation of impacts to wetlands and seasonal ponds;
- Traffic safety for ingress and egress at Marsh Creek Road;
- Effects on historic structures and Native American resources;
- Aesthetic and scenic effects related to local and regional development, including the adjacent Vineyards at Marsh Creek development and the Contra Costa County Community College.

While take of threatened and endangered species is not anticipated, the EIR will describe future State and Federal consultation and permit requirements that may be required for visitor use and facility development as necessary.

**Intended Use of the EIR:**

California State Parks, the City of Brentwood and the California State Parks and Recreation Commission will use the EIR component of the General Plan to consider the environmental effects, mitigation measures, and alternatives, when reviewing the proposed General Plan for approval. The EIR will serve as the State's CEQA compliance document for adoption of the General Plan. It will also serve as the programmatic environmental document that may be referenced in implementing future actions included in the General Plan. Responsible agencies may also use the EIR as needed for subsequent discretionary actions.

**Scoping Meeting:**

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

*Appendix A  
Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan and Draft Program EIR  
Notice of Preparation  
April 11, 2006*

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
City of Brentwood Community Center  
730 Third Street  
Brentwood, CA, 94513

**Attachments:** Project Location Map

*Appendix A  
Cowell Ranch/John Marsh State Historic Park Preliminary General Plan and Draft Program EIR  
Notice of Preparation  
April 11, 2006*







California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, CA 94517



# John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN



## NEWSLETTER #1



## JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH

## Calendar of Events

### PLANNING PROCESS AT A GLANCE

WINTER/SPRING 2006	SPRING/SUMMER 2006	FALL 2006	WINTER 2007	SPRING 2007
Information Gathering Fieldwork <b>PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #1</b>	Summarize Existing Conditions Discuss Challenges and Opportunities Develop Plan Alternatives	<b>PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #2</b> Refine Plan Alternatives Develop Draft General Plan	Finalize Draft Plan and Environmental Review <b>PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #3</b> Prepare Final Environmental Review	Commission Hearing and Approval Distribute Final Plans and Environmental Review Agency Approvals

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO A GREAT PLAN!

If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive the planning update and notice about future workshops, or wish to send written comments, please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, CA 94517  
925.673.2895  
(for questions or comments about the General Plan Process)

## Contact Information

Visit Our Website  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)  
(General Plans in Progress)



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### PARTNERS IN PARK PLANNING

In a collaborative partnership, California State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department are launching a joint planning process to plan for the future development of John Marsh / Cowell Ranch. Working together with the community, this planning process will create a vision for the future, provide recommendations for the future of the historic John Marsh House, public recreation access, and natural resource management as well as set guidelines for implementation of a long term vision for the Park so it can be enjoyed for years to come. We invite you to join us in envisioning the Park's future!

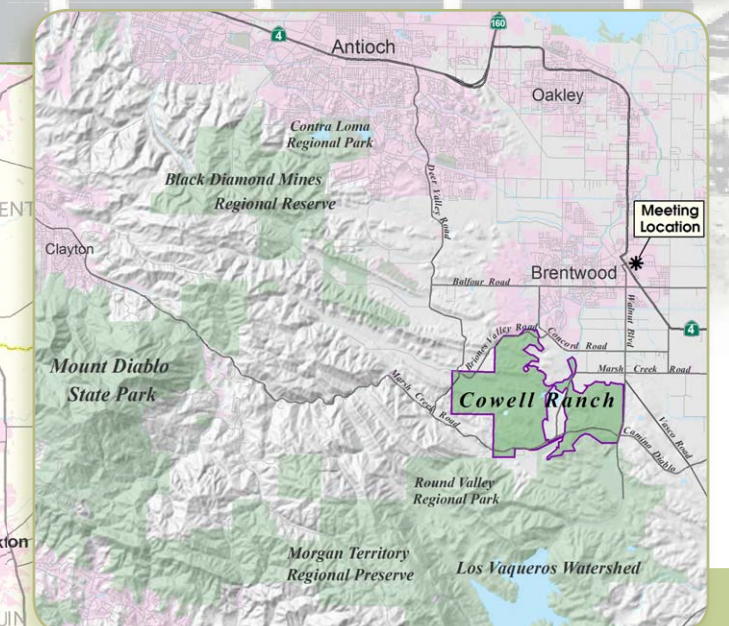
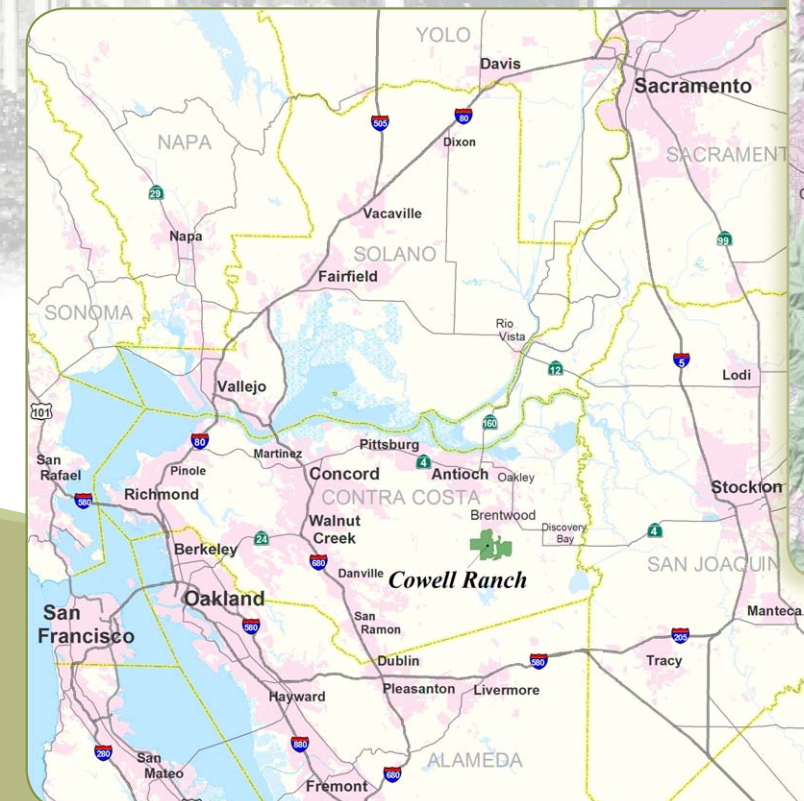
John Marsh / Cowell Ranch encompasses nearly 4000 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and unique cultural features, including the John Marsh House, nestled within one of California's fastest growing regions. Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as the Trust for Public Land and other public entities, John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is one of California's newest state parks. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for future public use and preservation of this valuable resource. You can start by filling out the enclosed questionnaire and attending the Public Planning Workshop on May 17. Early public input will provide us insights into your priorities, desires and concerns as we begin planning for the diverse resources at this new state park.

### HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

**Stay Informed:** This and future newsletters will keep you informed of the progress of the General Plan process. Over the next year and a half, we'll be working together to discuss and evaluate a variety of planning topics including recreation facilities, cultural and historic resources, habitat protection, and education and interpretive programs, to name just a few. This newsletter will track our progress and notify you of upcoming opportunities for public participation and input. Additionally, you can visit the California State Parks website noted on the back.

**Fill Out the Questionnaire:** The enclosed questionnaire will help us understand your key issues, ideas and concerns. Tell us how you think the Park could best serve the needs of its surrounding communities. What features would you like the Park to offer, and how you see the Park fitting in with the existing fabric of open space and recreation within the region.

**Attend the Public Planning Workshops:** We will host three public workshops for the John Marsh / Cowell Ranch General Plan. The first workshop will be held on May 17 at the City of Brentwood's Community Center. The workshop will provide a forum to share your knowledge and experiences about the history of the and adjacent land and to identify topics and issues to explore during the planning process. Please join us!



**Public Planning Workshop**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2006**  
**6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**City of Brentwood**  
**Community Center**  
**730 Third Street**  
**Brentwood, CA 94513**  
**925.516.5444**

APRIL 2006



# John Marsh / Cowell Ranch



The John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is located southwest of the City of Brentwood in eastern Contra Costa County. It lies within the rolling foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range. Mount Diablo's peak is 10.5 miles from the center of the site. The John Marsh House and 14 adjoining acres were acquired by California State Parks in 1978. In November of 2002, an additional 3,746 acres adjacent to the House were acquired from the Cowell Foundation through the efforts of the Trust for Public Lands and other public entities.

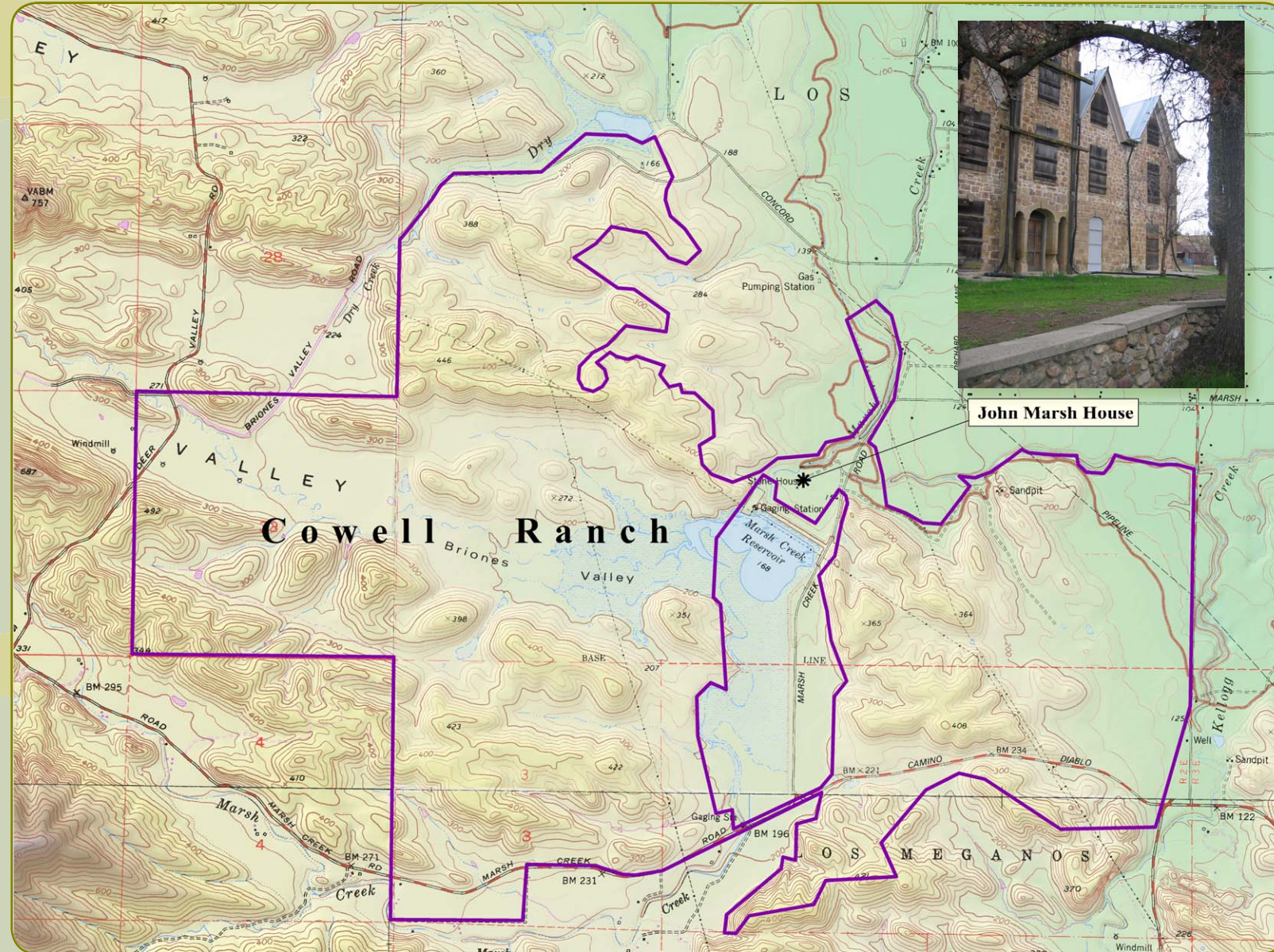
The Park provides an additional link in over 81,000 acres of contiguous public open space within the region. Vital not only for the potential visitor recreation opportunities but for its open space values and ecological diversity including wildlife habitat, native plant communities and a rich array of pre-historic and landscape-based cultural resources as well as the history of John Marsh and his influence on the region. Completion of the General Plan will provide a long term vision for the Park as well as a strategy for the rehabilitation of the John Marsh House and opportunities for recreation and long term resource management.

## JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH RESOURCES

John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is part of a large, contiguous grassland, savanna, and oak woodland habitat that extends through Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, containing a portion of Briones Valley. Other important habitats found within the Park are vernal pools, wetlands and Marsh Creek. This region is the northernmost habitat for the state threatened/federally endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox, and Cowell Ranch is known to support populations of other threatened or endangered species, such as the burrowing owl, California tiger salamander and vernal pool fairy shrimp.

### John Marsh / Cowell Ranch resources include:

- Historic architecture
- Ranch and agricultural historic landscape
- Native American resources
- Marsh Creek and riparian habitat
- Vernal pools
- Briones Valley



## PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

The John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is unique because California State Parks and the City of Brentwood have formed a special partnership to create a Plan for the Park. The two agencies will work closely together throughout the planning process and to craft a long term strategy that is responsive to the local and regional community. This partnership, along with consultation with other local and state entities will result in the potential for unique cooperative agreements for operation and management of facilities and resources, ensuring successful Plan implementation.

As part of the planning process the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report will be integrated with the development of the Plan to reduce potential harmful environmental effects to Park resources. Alternatives will be developed to provide a range of options for future use and management of the Park. Together the Plan and environmental review process will be designed to allow for full public participation and review. We encourage you to follow our timeline and stay involved!

## GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC PROCESS

### Information Gathering + Fieldwork

- Site Orientation
- Resource inventory and data collection
- Stakeholder interviews

### Existing Conditions Summary

- Additional data collection, review and field reconnaissance
- Public knowledge exchange workshop
- Identify stakeholder issues

### Challenges and Opportunities

- Analyze challenges and opportunities
- Develop plan alternatives
- Public workshop to discuss alternatives

### Draft Plan Preparation

- Develop plan policies and guidelines
- Public open house
- Environmental impact analysis and mitigation
- Draft plan public workshop
- Final plan approval



### Some topics that will be considered in the General Plan process include:

- Visitor use and facilities alternatives
- Comprehensive cultural resource management
- Interpretive themes and educational opportunities
- Park operations and maintenance facilities
- Relationship to the adjacent Marsh Creek Reservoir





# John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE



**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organization (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive future Planning Updates?**

**Yes      No**

☐☐

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Have you ever visited John Marsh House? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do on your visit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How far did you travel to visit the House? (miles) \_\_\_\_\_

What time of the year did you visit the Park? (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you value most about John Marsh / Cowell Ranch? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite feature or experience at the site? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you like least about the site? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think can be done to enhance the House and surrounding property?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After you left the site, what did you remember? \_\_\_\_\_  
-----  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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tape it closed, affix a 39 cent stamp and mail by May 31, 2006 Thank you!

requires  
39 cent  
stamp

California State Parks  
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, CA 94517



California State Parks and City of Brentwood

## ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH

General Plan

### **LAND TOURS**

*As part of the General Plan process and as per the request of stakeholders, a guided tour of Cowell Ranch will be made available to allow you the opportunity to see the landscape surrounding the John Marsh House and parts of the property not currently open to the public.*

***Please plan to join us on one of the three following dates:***

**Thursday, October 12, 2006**

**or**

**Saturday, October 14, 2006**

**or**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

**TIME: 9 AM – 12 NOON**

***(Meet inside gate off Marsh Creek Road)***

***RSVP by October 6, 2006***

***Craig Mattson (925) 673-2895***





California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, CA 94517

JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH  
**General Plan**



# John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN



Winter 2007

## Overview

California State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks would like your feedback on the General Plan for the future development of John Marsh / Cowell Ranch. John Marsh / Cowell Ranch encompasses nearly 4000 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and unique cultural features, including the John Marsh House, nestled within one of California's fastest growing regions. Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as the Trust for Public Land and other public entities, John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is one of California's newest state parks.

## Please Join Us

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.**

At this workshop, the General Plan project team will present preliminary alternative concepts for public review and feedback (see some topics below). The input collected at this next workshop will be used to refine the alternatives and craft the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

## Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments, visit our project website: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) (General Plans in Progress) or contact us at:

## Project Timeline

Winter/Spring 2006	Information Gathering Fieldwork PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #1
Fall 2006	Summarize Existing Conditions Discuss Challenges and Opportunities Develop Plan Alternatives
Winter 2007	<b>PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #2</b> Refine Plan Alternatives Develop Draft General Plan
Summer 2007	Finalize Draft Plan and Environmental Review PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #3 Prepare Final Environmental Review
Fall/Winter 2007	Commission Hearing and Approval Distribute Final Plans and Environmental Review Agency Approvals

California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector  
96 Mitchell Canyon Road  
Clayton, California 94517

## Sample General Plan Alternative Concepts

### Local and Regional Trails

- Briones Valley
- Marsh Creek Trail
- Connect to Los Vaqueros
- Eastern Hills
- Vineyards at Marsh Creek

### John Marsh House

- Stabilize structure for guided tours
- Full restoration and re-use:
  - Park offices
  - Special events
  - Visitor center

### Staging Areas

- Round Valley
- Deer Valley Road
- John Marsh House
- Eastern Hills

### Operation and Maintenance

- Re-use existing buildings
- Restoration storage
- Ranger station
- Camping check-in
- Cultural resources
- Research center

### Public Use

- Multi-use trails
- Camping
- Interpretive programs
- John Marsh House tours
- Day use areas

**Cultural and Natural Resource Protection and Management are Part of all Alternatives**

**Alternatives are Additive**

**Alternative 1 (No Action)** — what would happen if there was no General Plan.

**Alternative 2** — some visitor use and new facilities permitted.

**Alternative 3** — same as Alternative 2 with additional actions.

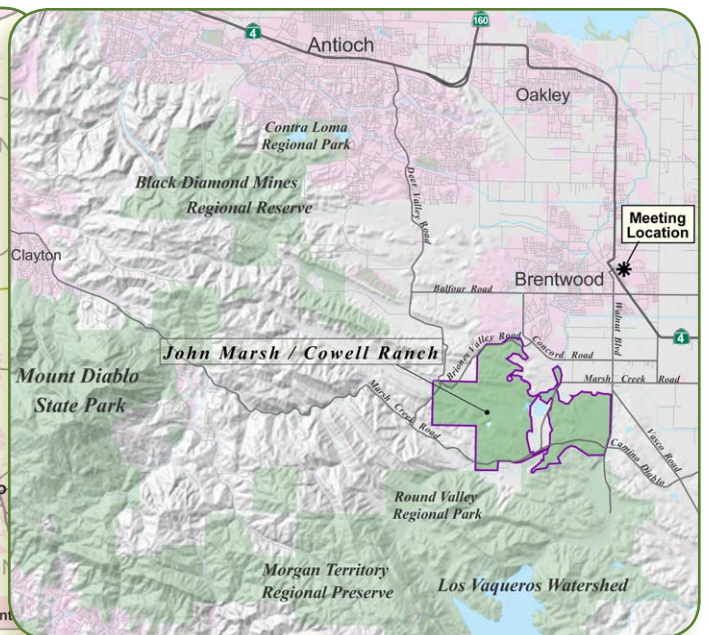
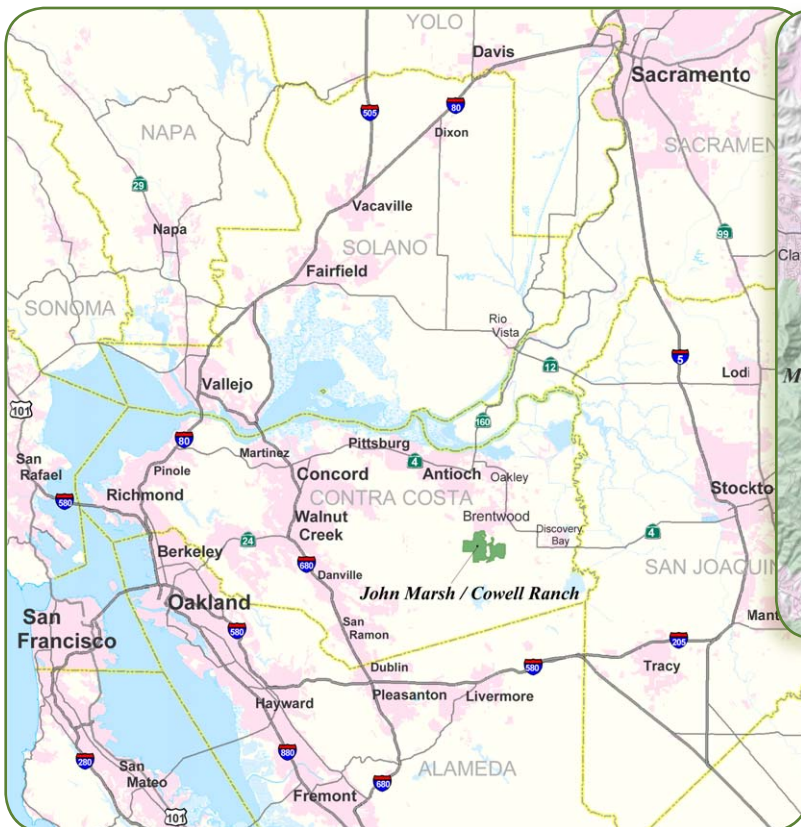


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## PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN



**Please attend the upcoming workshop:**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**

**City of Brentwood Community Center  
730 Third Street, Brentwood, CA 94513  
925.516.5444**



